

My name is Andrew Jennings, I'm a journalist and I've produced books and TV films about the IOC. My work is based on extensive documentary research.

I've won several awards including two top American ones; and there's the jail sentence the IOC had imposed on me in Switzerland for alleging that IOC members solicit bribes from cities seeking to stage the Olympics.

The IOC is a private club that dominates international sport through a web of conflicts of interest that would be difficult for any reform process to unravel.

The IOC would be nothing without its ownership of one of the world's most valuable sports properties.

The IOC enjoys all the benefits of a not for profit charity - but it doesn't make the disclosures associated with such privileged status. It's a multi billion dollar business - but it doesn't have to make statutory filings and no tax official gets to scrutinize its affairs.

The IOC says it's shocked to discover corruption

in its ranks. It shouldn't be. I'd long ago made allegations against most of the members they expelled last month.

And I'm not a lone voice.

Guess how long ago Time magazine - an Olympic sponsor - published this comment:

"For decades detailed reports have surfaced about attempts by IOC officials to solicit bribes from city officials mounting bids for the Games.

"Unfortunately, Samaranch seems to prefer the comfortable status quo to the house-cleaning necessary to restore the movement's soundness and integrity."

Time said that in 1992, the year I published my first book. A year earlier, in 1991, the Toronto people had handed over their damning report.

For years IOC members solicited bribes, they were reported to the IOC's Executive Board - and Samaranch led a chorus of denial.

My research reveals a pattern of serial

corruption, tolerated by President Samaranch and his Executive Board.

I was astonished when I first learned that the Olympics are controlled by a man who joined the youth fascists in 1936 and gave the fascist salute until General Franco died in 1975.

Why does it matter that Samaranch is an unapologetic fascist?

Because his singular achievement has been bringing the structures of the national socialism he learned in Franco's Spain into the IOC.

This organization - it was Samaranch who stated on American TV in 1996 - "We are more important than the Catholic church" - takes its decisions in secret, bars the public from its meetings - and justifies this because it claims to put the athletes first.

How do they spend the money?

The priority is to keep IOC members in style. They have a rule that they must fly at the front of the plane, they're chauffeured to the finest hotels - they insist on a limousine each at the Games.

The athletes fly coach, they get around by bus, they sleep in the dorm, and in sweltering Barcelona, no one cared enough to give them air conditioning.

The athletes are allowed to elect their own representatives. But they have no voice. That's because since 1981 the same trusty IOC member has been imposed by Samaranch as their chairman.

The IOC claims it ploughs money back into sport.

Is it distributed fairly? We don't know. Samaranch decides in private.

The IOC is a private club of 107 people handpicked by Samaranch. They stay until they're 80. Only one in ten members are women.

Samaranch loves Royals; there are three Princesses plus Princes from Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Monaco, Luxembourg, Belgium and Holland.

The sponsors are aboard. NBC and Visa each have an IOC member and Coca Cola had two - until one was kicked out last month.

And here's a few others:

There's Indonesia's Bob Hasan. He built his 3 billion dollar fortune as a crony of the dictator Suharto. He's the world's biggest rain-forest logger. The IMF refused to release funds last year until his timber cartel was dismantled. He's been accused of genocide against the Dayak people of Borneo and lighting the fires that clouded Asia two years ago.

Then there's Major-General Nyangweso. He was Army Chief to Uganda's Idi Amin.

It's recorded in the East German Stasi files that Thomas Bach, a member of the IOC executive board, is alleged to have helped supply prostitutes to win a sports election.

Five weeks after Korea's Mr Kun Hee Lee was appointed in 1996, he got a two-year suspended jail sentence for paying bribes to two Korean presidents.

He is also president of Samsung, an IOC sponsor.

And there's the member who visits bidding cities and claims "My hotel room's been robbed. Don't call the police, just write me a cheque."

The IOC has corrupted the Olympic Games.

It misleads the world about doping. Positive samples were suppressed in Moscow 1980 and Los Angeles 1984. Nobody trusts them and they must not be allowed to control dope testing in Sydney. Our kids, the athletes, deserve better.

Women athletes have to take a gender test. Men don't. The American Medical Association condemns it - the test has no scientific value - but the IOC claims to know better.

You can buy gold medals. Remember Roy Jones, the brilliant American boxer who had his gold medal stolen from him in an obviously fixed fight in Seoul? I published a list of bribes paid to steal medals from American athletes. The IOC refuses to give Roy Jones his gold medal.

The IOC have been through a reform process before.

Just five years ago they spent sixteen million dollars on a convention discussing the Olympic movement in the next century. Democracy,

accountability, term limits or transparency were not on their agenda

ENDS.